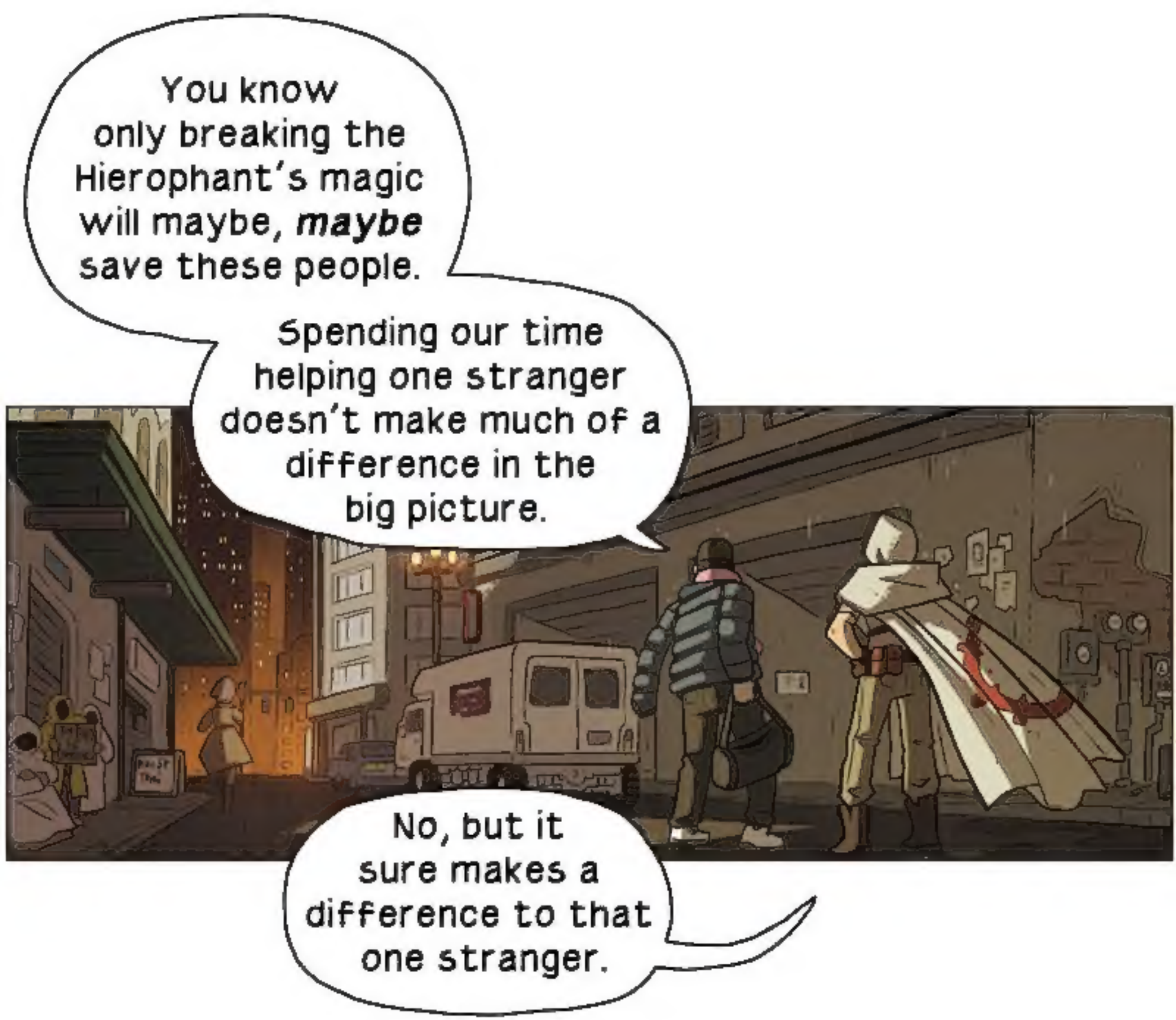
THE SWORD INTERVAL

BY BEN FLEUTER

Yoooo!
Hey, hold up!
PUBLIC MARKET CENTER

Oh my god. Oh my god thank you!
Yeah! Just don't go pointing it at anything you don't want to kill.
...Try hanging mirrors in your windows, too. Facing outward. Might ward the spirit.
Mirrors! Okay, we have mirrors! Thank you both! Thank you so much!


You know only breaking the Hierophant's magic will maybe, ***maybe*** save these people.
Spending our time helping one stranger doesn't make much of a difference in the big picture.
No, but it sure makes a difference to that one stranger.

So then, that what I think it is?
Mm.

The type of weapon Atlas uses for killing Harbingers.

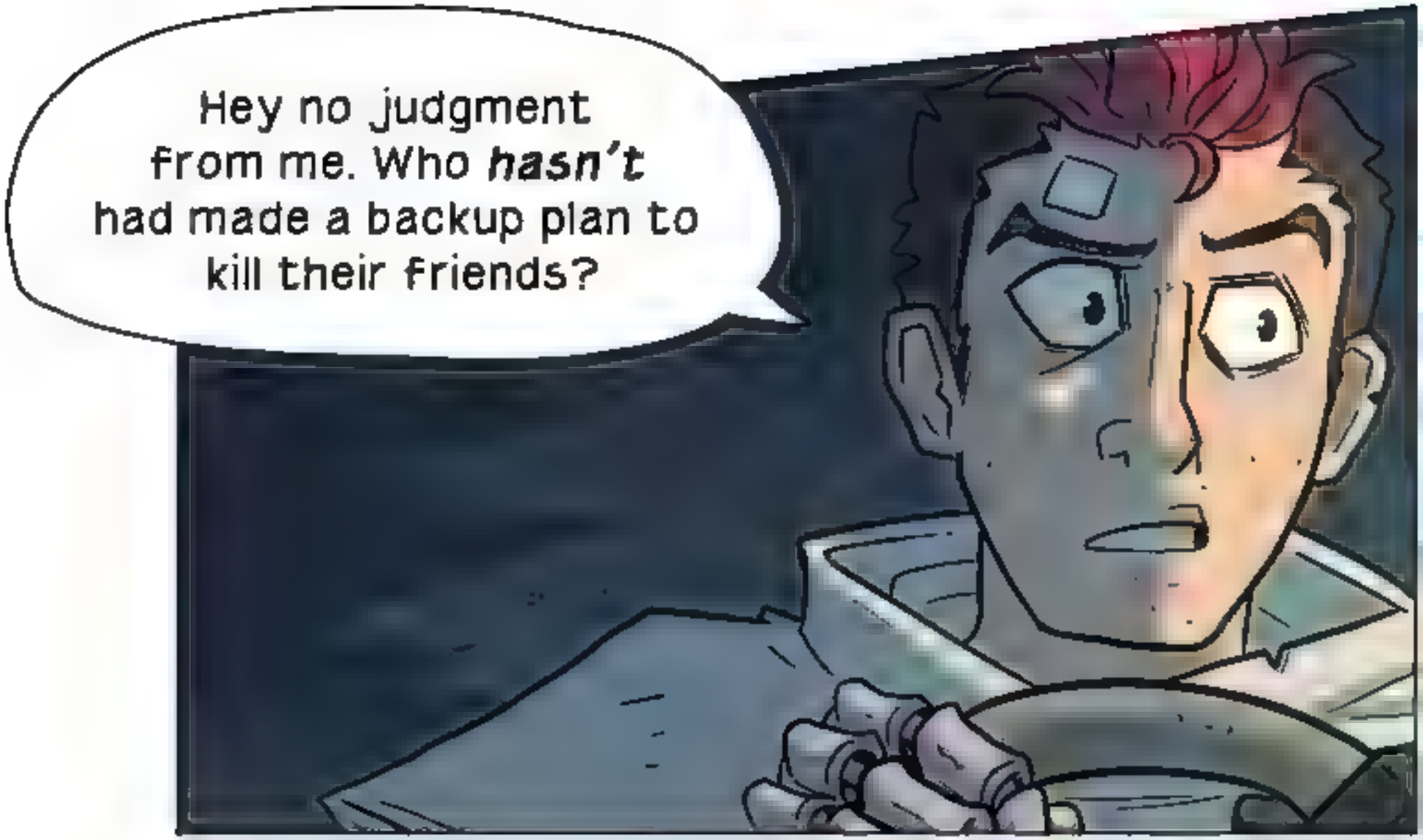
You going full hunter-mode on Fall? And she doesn't know?

That'd be why you wanted her to go to the auction with Yun.

I don't plan on using it Marco, I really really don't, but let's be realistic here.

Ooo *realistic?*
Let's.

Fall can unleash something... vague and terrible.
I don't believe she'd do it intentionally, but we don't know what actually triggers it. Don't know how much control she has. Don't know if she'll keep... changing. The axe is insurance. Just in case.


Hey no judgment from me. Who *hasn't* had made a backup plan to kill their friends?

Can't tell if you're joking.

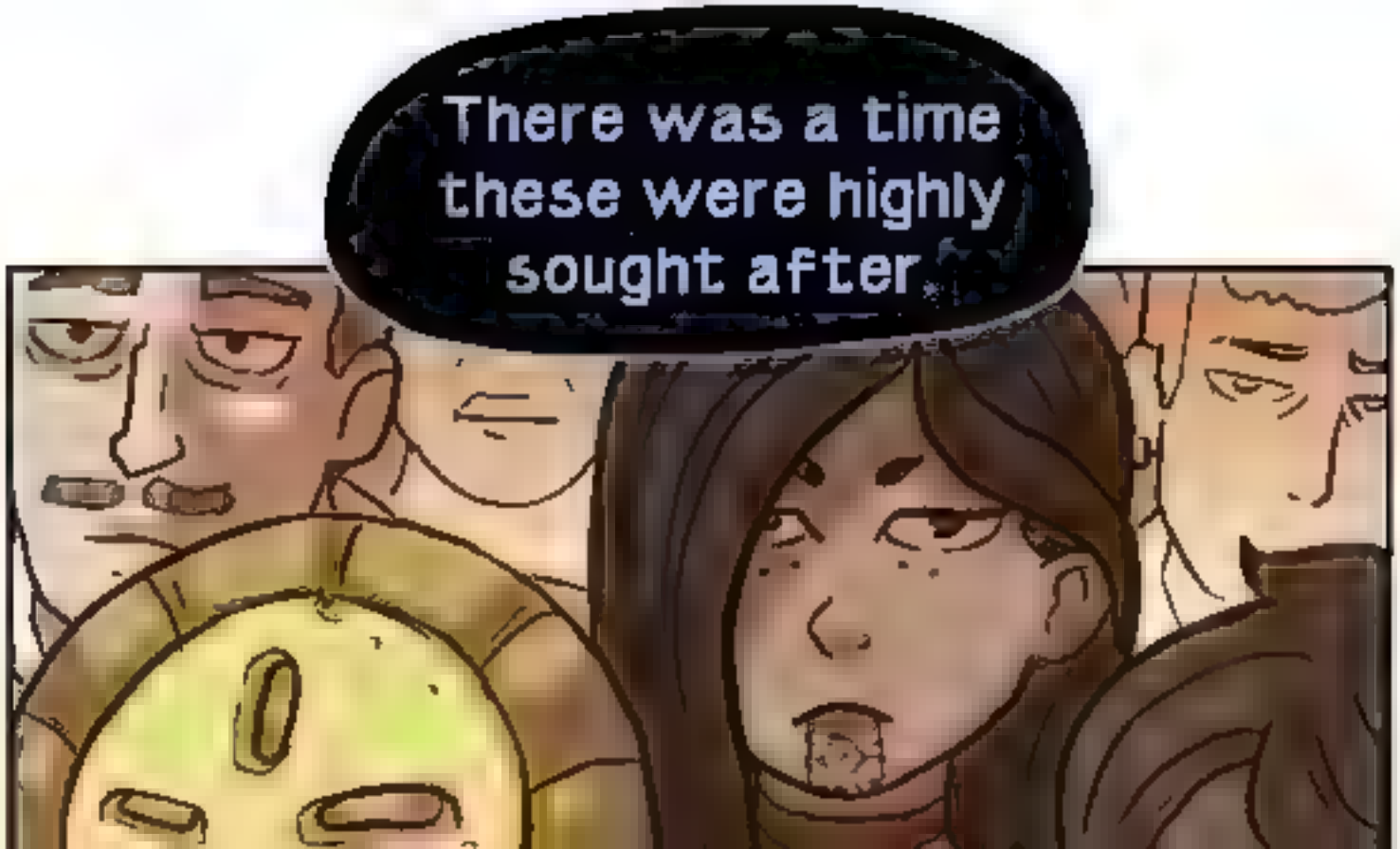
Man honestly? Me neither.

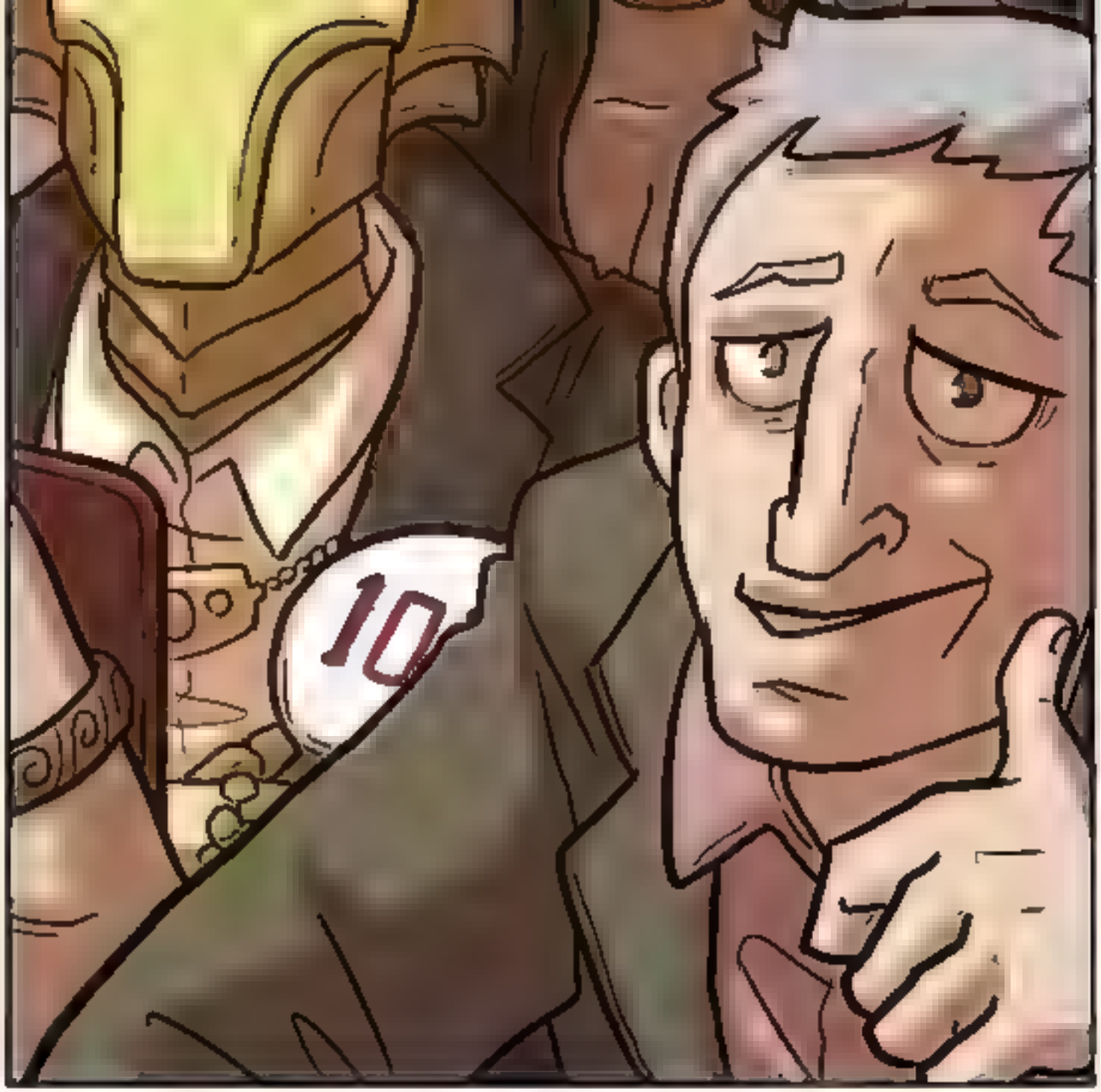
Sold! For Two-hundred million, to the gentleman in maroon.

Let's make this next piece our last before intermission.
Lot 0276, a series of modern cityscapes by the infamous Eliezer Solomon.

Wonderful brushwork, but of course that's not what makes them remarkable.

No, what's interesting about these paintings is Solomon painted all of them over four-hundred years ago.


There was a time these were highly sought after.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Needless to say there were benefits to knowing the shape a city would take.
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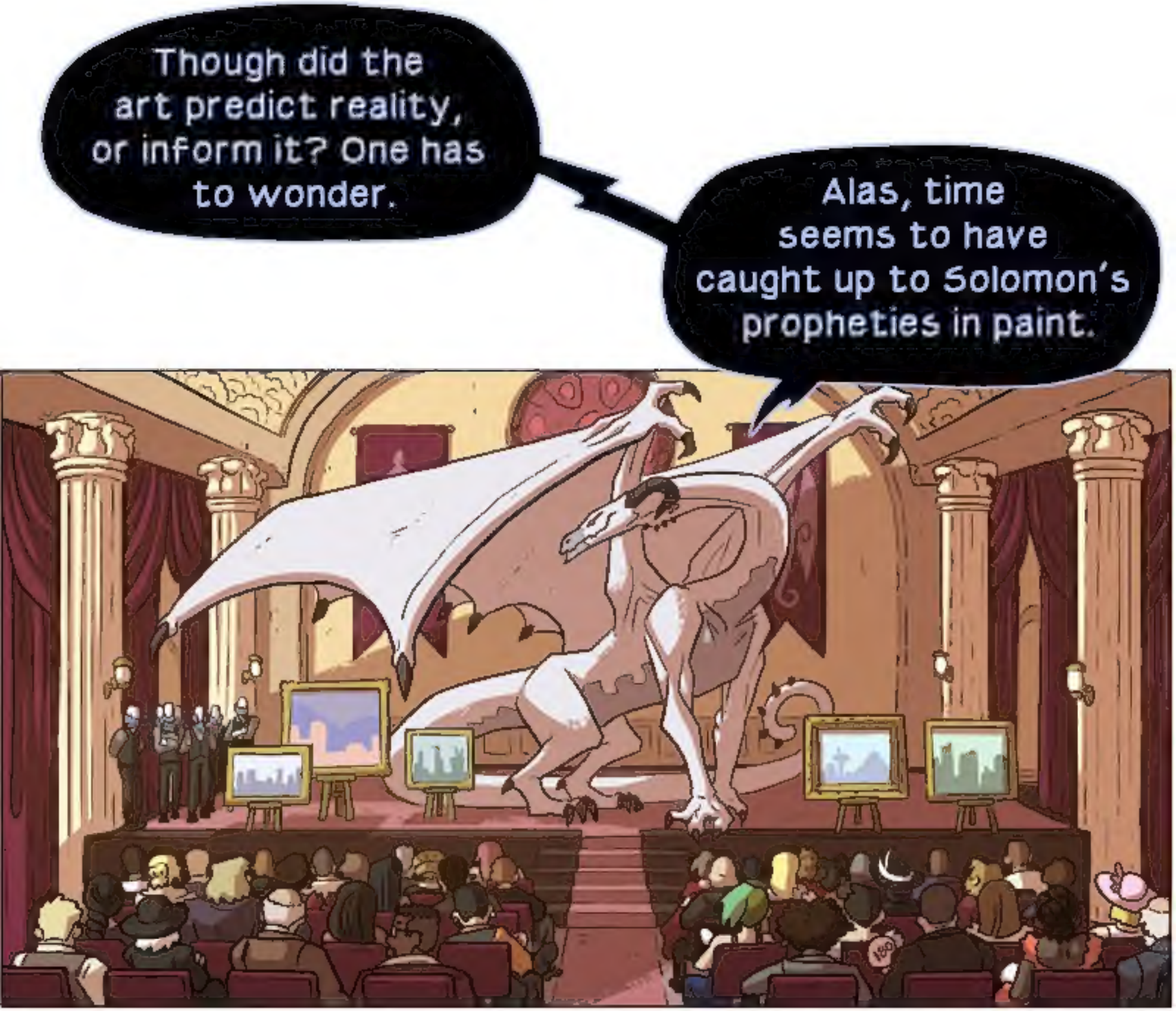
Though did the art predict reality, or inform it? One has to wonder.
Alas, time seems to have caught up to Solomon's propheties in paint.

We'll begin the bidding at forty million...

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